

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

FEMA CASEWORKER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5343) to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit a report to Congress on case management personnel turnover, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5343

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FEMA Caseworker Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON STAFF TURNOVER.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report containing—

(1) the turnover rate for case management personnel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(2) the average and median length of employment for the personnel described in paragraph (1);

(3) the steps that the Agency is taking, or plans to take, to lower the rate of turnover for the personnel described in paragraph (1);

(4) the number of personnel of the Agency that is detailed to work disaster recovery and then return to such personnel's full time assignment after a disaster, disaggregated by full-time, part-time, temporary, and contract personnel; and

(5) the average time and median length of the rotations of personnel described in paragraph (4) and how often rotations and reassignment of personnel occur for each disaster recovery position and function, disaggregated by full-time, part-time, temporary, and contract personnel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEBSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5343, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5343. This bill addresses the high rate of turnover for disaster case management personnel at FEMA.

FEMA's case management personnel are critical to the disaster recovery process. They help survivors access basic needs such as housing, childcare, and transportation assistance.

This legislation requires FEMA to provide a report to Congress with data on case management personnel turnover and any Agency plans to reduce turnover.

I urge my colleagues on both sides to join with me and support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5343, the FEMA Caseworker Accountability Act, requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency to examine their case management turnover rates and the average length of employment for employees detailed to disaster response cases.

The goal of H.R. 5343 is to reduce the turnover rates for FEMA employees who have been detailed to disaster recovery.

Consistent turnover only hurts disaster victims as it can prolong the recovery process, especially for small rural communities.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE).

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5343, the FEMA Caseworker Accountability Act.

South Carolina's Seventh District is still recuperating from disaster after disaster. We experienced four flooding events in 8 years.

Over the years, I have learned some tough lessons. We have continuously heard and seen how case management staff turnover rates at FEMA have extended the process for our communities to receive the assistance they need after a disaster.

Sometimes it takes 4 or 5 years for FEMA to get people back in their homes, and it is far too long because, unfortunately, the people who are disproportionately affected by these disasters are people of low income and minorities. They lose everything that they had, what little they had, and they can't wait for 5 years for the government to respond.

I have heard complaints from disaster victims to local officials about the lack of coordination due to the high turnover rates at FEMA. This disorganization causes significant delays in processing claims and reimbursement of essential funds.

This bill will increase the transparency at FEMA following a disaster by requiring a report on their employees' turnover rate. It also requires a report to include the average length of employment for staff who are assigned to work on disaster recoveries.

FEMA must be held accountable to our communities and our taxpayers who rely on them following a disaster.

I thank Representative MACE and Resident Commissioner Gonzalez-Colon for their support on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this bill will assist FEMA by providing data to reduce turnover and provide more consistency for communities recovering from disasters.

Madam Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge others to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5343, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

CARE IS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ACT

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5547) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to require eligible recipients of certain grants to develop a comprehensive economic development strategy that directly or indirectly increases the accessibility of affordable, quality care-based services, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5547

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Care is an Economic Development Strategy Act" or the "CEDS Act".